

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

AGR-20 SWF-02 HEW-08 CU-05 STR-08 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2276

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID ETRD CH NI

SUBJ: NEW UNDERSTANDINGS ON PRC-NIGERIA TRADE AND AID

SUMMARY. A NIGERIAN OFFICIAL TRANSITING HONG KONG HAS STATED THAT THE PRC AND NIGERIA HAVE DRAWN UP AN AGREEMENT ON TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND EDUCATION. THE AGREEMENT-- NOT MENTIONED IN THE COMMUNIQUE-- REPORTEDLY CALLS FOR INCREASED NIGERIAN EXPORTS TO THE PRC AND INCREASED PRC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIA. UNDER THE AGREEMENT, THE PRC IS TO SEND MORE ADVISORS TO NIGERIA AND TO TRAIN NIGERIANS IN THE PRC. END SUMMARY

1. THE PRC AND NIGERIA DREW UP AN AGREEMENT COVERING TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND EDUCATION DURING NIGERIAN PRESIDENT GOWON'S RECENT VISIT TO PEKING, ACCORDING TO A NIGERIAN OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED GOWON. THIS NEWS APPEARED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SEPTEMBER 16 HONG KONG "SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST" IN

THE FORM OF AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED NIGERIAN OFFICIAL BY A REPORTER WHOM USIS CONSIDERS ACCURATE AND RELIABLE. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (WHICH WAS DATED THE 15TH, ISSUED IN PEKING ON THE 16TH, BUT NOT AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG UNTIL THE 17TH) DID NOT, HOWEVER, MENTION SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO THE NIGERIAN OFFICIAL, THE AGREEMENT IS DESIGNED TO "RECTIFY" THE PRESENT TRADE IMBALANCE (\$39.9 MILLION TO \$7.7 MILLION IN FAVOR OF THE PRC IN 1973). IT WILL CALL FOR NIGERIAN EXPORTS OF GROUNDNUTS, COTTON, COCOA, AND PETROLEUM (SIC) TO THE PRC AND PRC EXPORTS OF CLOTHES, SILK, AND CUTLERY TO NIGERIA. THE OFFICIAL SAID THE QUANTITY OF EXPORTS HAD NOT BEEN WORKED OUT. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, THE PRC WILL ALSO INCREASE ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE AGREEMENT BY SENDING MORE TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO NIGERIA TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY, WHILE THE NIGERIANS "BUILD FACILITIES" AND DO THINGS WITH THEIR "OWN HANDS". MORE NIGERIANS WILL ALSO BE SENT TO THE PRC TO STUDY WITH CHINESE EXPERTS.

3. IN ITS ONLY DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE 1972 AGREEMENTS, THE COMMUNIQUE MERELY STATES THAT THE EXISTING TRADE AGREEMENT AND THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT "ARE BEING SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED" AND THAT "FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION" HAVE BEEN HELD. THE ABSENCE OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY NEW "AGREEMENT" AS DESCRIBED BY THE NIGERIAN OFFICIAL MAY INDICATE THAT FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1972 AGREEMENT (WHICH IS VALID FOR FIVE YEARS) DOES NOT REQUIRE THE SIGNING OF AN ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT. THE LANGUAGE OF THE NIGERIAN OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, POINTS TO SOME FORM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FURTHER TRADE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND IMPLIES THAT IT HAS BEEN PUT ON PAPER. IT MAY BE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDED NOT TO PUBLICIZE ANY NEW AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO PLAY DOWN PRC ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PEKING'S LINE OF SELF RELIANCE. IN THIS VEIN, NCNA QUOTES GOWON ON HIS RETURN TO LAGOS AS DESCRIBING THE VISIT AS "VERY SUCCESSFUL"

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AND SAYING THAT NIGERIANS "WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO BUILD THE NATION ON THEIR OWN EFFORTS." (SEPTEMBER 17).
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